

Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Advisory Committee on Beginning Farmers and Ranchers

AGENCY: Departmental Management, Office of Advocacy and Outreach, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The Office of Advocacy and Outreach is issuing this notice to advise the public that meetings of the Advisory Committee on Beginning Farmers and Ranchers (Committee) will be held to discuss and explore USDA policy options designed to create and sustain "New and Beginning Farmers and Ranchers."

DATES: The public meetings will be held December 15th and 16th, 2010. Opportunities for public comment will be made available on December 15th, 2010, from 9 a.m. to 11:45 a.m., and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. The second meeting will be held on December 16th, 2010, from 9 a.m. and end at 4 p.m. Requests to make oral statements should be received no later than 12 noon EDT on December 13th, 2010. For more information, see the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section.

ADDRESSES: All meetings will be located in Omni Shoreham Hotel, 2500 Calvert Street, NW., Washington, DC 20008. Attendance is open to all interested persons but limited to space available. Anyone wishing to make an oral statement should submit their request in writing (letter, fax, or e-mail) to Quinton N. Robinson, Designated Federal Official for the Advisory Committee on Beginning Farmers and Ranchers, Departmental Management, Office of Advocacy and Outreach, Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 520 Whitten, STOP, Washington, DC 20250-0522; fax (202) 720-205-5490; phone (202) 720-3058; e-mail Quinton.Robinson@dm.usda.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Quinton N. Robinson at 202-720-3058.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Requests to make oral statements should be received no later than 12 noon EDT on December 13th, 2010. Requests should include the name and affiliation of the individual who will make the presentation and an outline of the issues to be addressed. The floor will be open to oral presentations beginning at 1 p.m. on December 15th, 2010. Comments will be limited to 5 minutes, and presenters will be approved on a first-come, first-served basis.

Section 5 of the Agriculture Credit Improvement Act of 1992 (Pub. L. 102-554) requires the Secretary of Agriculture to establish the New and Beginning Farmer and Rancher Advisory Committee for the purpose of advising the Secretary on: (1) The development of a program of coordinated financial assistance to qualified beginning farmers and ranchers required by Section 309(i) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (this program consists of Federal and State beginning farmer programs that provide joint financing to beginning farmers and ranchers); (2) methods of maximizing the number of new farming and ranching opportunities created through the program; (3) methods of encouraging States to participate in the program; (4) the administration of the program; and (5) other methods of creating new farming or ranching opportunities.

USDA's Departmental Management's Office of Advocacy and Outreach is responsible for the performance and oversight of the New and Beginning Farmer and Rancher Advisory Committee pursuant to Section 14013 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, Public Law 110-246.

If special accommodations are required, please contact Mr. Robinson at the address specified above, by COB December 3, 2010.

Signed in Washington, DC on November 19, 2010.

Pearlie S. Reed,

Assistant Secretary for Administration.

[FR Doc. 2010-29697 Filed 11-24-10; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-90-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Information Collection Activity; Comment Request

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. chapter 35, as amended), the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) invites comments on the following information collections for which RUS intends to request approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by January 25, 2011.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michele Brooks, Director, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, Rural Utilities Service, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., STOP 1522, Room 5162, South Building, Washington, DC 20250-1522. Telephone: (202) 690-1078. Fax: (202) 720-8435.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) regulation (5 CFR part 1320) implementing provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13) requires that interested members of the public and affected agencies have an opportunity to comment on information collection and recordkeeping activities [see 5 CFR 1320.8(d)]. This notice identifies information collections that RUS is submitting to OMB for extension.

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether this collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to Michele Brooks, Director,

Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, Rural Utilities Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, STOP 1522, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250-1522. Fax: (202) 720-0784.

Title: Electric System Emergency Restoration Plan.

OMB Control Number: 0572-0140.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: The term "critical infrastructure" is defined in section 1016(e) of the USA Patriot Act of 2001 (42 U.S.C. 5195c(e)) as "systems and assets, whether physical or virtual, so vital to the United States that the incapacity or destruction of such systems and assets would have a debilitating impact on security, national economic security, national public health or safety, or any combination of those matters." Electric power systems have been identified in Presidential Decision Directive 63 (PDD-63) as one of the critical infrastructures of the United States.

A substantial portion of the electric infrastructure of the United States resides in, and is maintained by, rural America. RUS is uniquely coupled with the electric infrastructure of rural America and its electric borrowers serving rural America. To ensure that the electric infrastructure in rural America is adequately protected, RUS requires that all electric borrowers conduct a Vulnerability and Risk Assessment (VRA) of their respective systems and utilize the results of this assessment to enhance an existing Emergency Restoration Plan (ERP) or create an ERP.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .5 hours per response.

Respondents: Not-for-profit institutions.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 676.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 338 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from MaryPat Daskal, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, at (202) 720-7853, FAX: (202) 720-8435.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: November 19, 2010.

Jonathan Adelstein,

Administrator, Rural Utilities Service.

[FR Doc. 2010-29768 Filed 11-24-10; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Buckhorn Exploration Project 2010, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Okanogan County, WA

Joint Lead Agencies: Forest Service, Department of Agriculture; and Department of Natural Resources, Washington State.

Cooperating Agencies: Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior; and Department of Ecology, Washington State.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: The Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, in cooperation with the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and Washington Department of Ecology (WADOE), will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a proposal by Echo Bay Exploration, Inc. (Echo Bay) to explore their mineral holdings in Township 40 North, Range 30 East, Sections 1, 12 to 15, 22 to 27, and 34 to 36; and in Township 40 North, Range 31 East, Sections 5 to 9 and 16 to 20, W.M.

Proposed exploration operations will be located in Okanogan County, Washington on unpatented mining claims on public lands administered by the Tonasket Ranger District of the Forest Service and the Wenatchee Field Office of the BLM. Exploration operations will also be located on state mineral lease lands, private lands, and patented mining claims administered by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources.

The EIS will evaluate a range of reasonable alternatives to the proposed action and will assess the potential impacts of each alternative. The public will have an opportunity to comment on the EIS, including the range of alternatives and the impacts analysis.

The agencies are giving notice of this analysis so that interested and affected individuals are aware of how they may participate and contribute to the final decision.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of this analysis must be received by January 3, 2011. A public information meeting is planned to be held in Oroville, Washington on December 14, 2010 at the Oroville High School Commons from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Details concerning any additional public meetings, none presently scheduled, will be announced via local news media

outlets. The Draft EIS is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in September 2011. The Final EIS is expected to be filed with the EPA in April 2012.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments and suggestions concerning the scope of the analysis to Phillip Christy, District Environmental Coordinator, 1 West Winesap, Tonasket, WA 98855, phone (509) 486-5137. Comments may also be sent via e-mail to comments-pacificnorthwest-okanogan-tonasket@fs.fed.us, or via facsimile to 509-486-1922. Electronic comments must be part of an e-mail message, or as an attachment in either Microsoft Word (doc or docx), Rich Text Format (rtf), or Portable Document Format (pdf). Electronic comments containing viruses will be rejected.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Direct questions about the proposed action and EIS to Phillip Christy, District Environmental Coordinator, 1 West Winesap, Tonasket, Washington 98855, phone (509) 486-5137, Kelly Courtright, BLM Mining Engineer, 1103 N. Fancher Road, Spokane, WA 99212, phone (509) 536-1218, or Fred Greef, SEPA Coordinator, Washington State Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 7015, Olympia, WA 98504-7015, phone (360) 902-1628. Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The General Mining Law of 1872, as amended, provides Echo Bay the statutory right to explore for and develop mineral resources on federally administered lands. Federal policy encourages the development of federal mineral resources and requires reclamation of disturbed federal lands. This right carries with it the responsibility to assure that operations include adequate and responsible measures to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of federal lands and to provide for reasonable reclamation.

The BLM administers the surface acres of public land for which the BLM is responsible and the federal subsurface mineral estate under the Mining Law and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA). FLPMA also governs the BLM's administration of public lands not open to location under the Mining Law. The Mining Law allows the location and use of mining claims "under such regulations prescribed by law" and Section 302(b) of FLPMA and